

Message Text

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72

ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 OIC-02 SMI-01 H-01 CG-00

DOT-00 AGR-05 INT-05 DLOS-03 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06

NEA-09 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 COA-01 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 L-02 NSF-01 NSC-05

NSAE-00 PM-03 SS-15 SP-02 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /130 W

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R 051500Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5197

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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COPENHAGEN FOR FISHERIES ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, OCON, TBIO, IC

SUBJECT: 27TH ANNUAL MEETING, INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION
(IWC), JUNE 23-27, LONDON

REF: STATE 046073

1. EMBOFF RAISED QUESTIONS CONTAINED IN REFTEL WITH
DEPUTY SEC GEN MIN FISHERIES. HE WAS UNABLE TO GIVE
A FORMAL REPLY AT THIS TIME, BUT REVIEWED ICELANDIC
POLICY WHICH CONTAINED NO SURPRISES.

2. HE SAID ICELAND COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT ACCEPT A
MORATORIUM. WHILE ICELAND'S CATCH IS
MINISCULE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO THE ICELANDIC ECONOMY.
ICELAND CAN GO WITH A MAJORITY RECOMMENDATION OF
THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE SINCE ICELAND PRESUMES ANY
QUOTA AFFECTING ICELAND WOULD NOT REDUCE EXIST-

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ING CATCH LEVELS. HE SAID ICELAND HAS NO INTENTION

OF INCREASING PRESENT CATCH LEVELS.

3. ICELAND IS INTERESTED IN SPERM, FIN, AND MINKE WHALES, WHICH ARE CAUGHT IN ICELANDIC WATERS, AND HE SAID THE SCIENTISTS ARE NOT WORRIED ABOUT THESE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE BULL SPERM WHALES CAUGHT HERE ARE THOSE DRIVEN FROM SOUTH ATLANTIC STOCKS AND THUS DO NOT AFFECT THE PRESERVATION OF THE SPECIES. THE MINKE WHALE IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC IS NOT CONSIDERED ENDANGERED ALTHOUGH THOSE FROM OTHER GEOGRAPHIC AREAS MAY BE.

4. CONSEQUENTLY HE BELIEVED THAT UNLESS THERE IS A MAJOR CHANGE IN ICELANDIC POLICY, HE WOULD EXPECT THE DELEGATION FROM ICELAND TO SUPPORT THE MAJORITY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND TO CONTINUE TO OPPOSE ANY MORATORIUM WHICH WOULD NOT MAKE ALLOWANCES FOR ICELAND'S NEEDS. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE REFERRED TO AN EARLIER PROPOSAL TO BAN PELAGIC WHALING, WHICH HE FELT WOULD COVER MOST WHALING INCLUDING JAPANESE AND RUSSIAN, BUT NOT PREVENT ICELAND FROM CONTINUING TO WHALE AT PRESENT LEVELS. SUCH A PROPOSAL WOULD PROBABLY BE ACCEPTABLE TO ICELAND.
MARTIN

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